



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/998,910

11/30/2001

Joan C. Teng

21756-011900

4169

51206

7590

07/17/2008

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
8TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

BLAIR, DOUGLAS B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2142

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/17/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

ADVISORY ACTION

Applicant's arguments filed 6/24/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

First the applicant argues that Cheng does not teach or suggest an "access management system accessing a template" however the cited portions of Cheng as well as column 13 of Cheng explain how the organizational parameters are used to determine whether or not to grant access to a user. For example, a users from different locations (London, Seattle) may have different authorization levels just as in column 13 users from engineering versus non engineering areas have different authorization levels. Cheng clearly satisfies the limitation in question because it is non-specific as to the type of template nor does it limit the term "access management system".

As to the applicant's next argument that Cheng does not teach "a template that indicates one or more parameters for defining one or more workflows for managing identify profiles", the applicant is ignoring the broad nature of the applicant's claims. The Examiner disagrees with the applicant's characterization of Cheng. In Cheng the unique identifiers are identifiers with represent "identify profiles", for example John_smith.employee.London represents an identity for John Smith based on the London organizational template. This interpretation of Cheng is consistent with the applicant's broadly claimed invention.

As to the applicant's argument that Cheng does not teach "one or more parameters comprise one or more parameters that define an operation to be performed on identify profiles as part of said one or more workflows", the applicant is directed towards column 13 which explains that organizational information such as whether or not X is a member of the engineering

template use parameters to define the authorization operations of the workflows. The claims lack any details of what parameters are supposed to comprise so the term parameter can only receive a broad interpretation.

Finally the applicant argues that Cheng does not teach storing definitions, workflows, or even a mass storage device however Cheng clearly discloses the use of workflows that are implemented by computing devices and therefore must be stored on some form of mass storage device.

Though not entered, the applicant's claim amendment would not overcome Cheng because the amendment only broadly states an "identity system" and Cheng clearly can be considered to teach some form of "identity system". In order to further prosecution the applicant needs to supply amendments and/or arguments that clearly explain the differences between the concept of the applicant's workflow system and the workflow system taught by Cheng. Arguing claim semantics does not help to further prosecution.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DOUGLAS B. BLAIR whose telephone number is (571)272-3893. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Douglas B Blair/
Examiner, Art Unit 2142